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DECEMBER 2010 CONSTRUCTION AT \$787.9 BILLION ANNUAL RATE

The U.S. Census Bureau of the Department of Commerce announced today that construction spending during December 2010 was estimated at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$787.9 billion, 2.5 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$807.8 billion. The December figure is 6.4 percent ($\pm 1.6\%$) below the December 2009 estimate of \$841.8 billion.

The value of construction in 2010 was \$814.2 billion, 10.3 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) below the \$907.8 billion spent in 2009.

PRIVATE CONSTRUCTION

Spending on private construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$486.9 billion, 2.2 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$498.0 billion. Residential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$226.4 billion in December, 4.1 percent ($\pm 1.3\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$236.1 billion. Nonresidential construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$260.5 billion in December, 0.5 percent ($\pm 1.1\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$261.9 billion.

The value of private construction in 2010 was \$507.3 billion, 14.3 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) below the \$592.3 billion spent in 2009. Residential construction in 2010 was \$241.4 billion, 1.7 percent ($\pm 2.1\%$)* below the 2009 figure of \$245.6 billion and nonresidential construction was \$265.9 billion, 23.3 percent ($\pm 1.0\%$) below the \$346.7 billion in 2009.

PUBLIC CONSTRUCTION

In December, the estimated seasonally adjusted annual rate of public construction spending was \$301.0 billion, 2.8 percent ($\pm 1.8\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$309.8 billion. Educational construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$68.2 billion, 3.7 percent ($\pm 2.9\%$) below the revised November estimate of \$70.8 billion. Highway construction was at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of \$84.9 billion, 1.6 percent ($\pm 4.2\%$)* below the revised November estimate of \$86.3 billion.

The value of public construction in 2010 was \$306.8 billion, 2.7 percent ($\pm 1.4\%$) below the \$315.5 billion spent in 2009. Educational construction in 2010 was \$74.4 billion, 13.6 percent ($\pm 2.7\%$) below the 2009 figure of \$86.1 billion and highway construction was \$83.3 billion, 1.7 percent ($\pm 3.5\%$)* above the \$81.9 billion in 2009.

January 2011 data will be released on March 1, 2011 at 10:00 A.M. EST.

For more detailed data and methodologies, go to our website:

<http://www.census.gov/constructionspending>

EXPLANATORY NOTES

In interpreting changes in the statistics in this release, note that month-to-month changes in seasonally adjusted statistics often show movements which may be irregular. It may take 2 months to establish an underlying trend for total construction and as long as 8 months for specific categories of construction. The statistics in this release are estimated from several sources and surveys and are subject to sampling variability as well as nonsampling error including bias and variance from response, nonreporting, and undercoverage. Estimates of the standard errors are provided in Table 3. Whenever a statement such as "2.3 (± 3.1) percent above" appears in the text, this indicates the range (-0.8 to +5.4 percent) in which the actual percent change is likely to have occurred. All ranges given are 90 percent confidence intervals and account only for sampling variability. If a range does not contain zero, the change is statistically significant. If it does contain zero, the change is not statistically significant; that is, it is uncertain whether there was an increase or decrease. Statistics for the current month are preliminary estimates subject to revision in following months as additional data become available. The average absolute percent changes from preliminary estimate to first revision for the major seasonally adjusted components are as follows: total construction, 1.2 percent; private construction, 1.9 percent; and public construction, 1.2 percent.

* 90% confidence interval includes zero. The U.S. Census Bureau does not have sufficient statistical evidence to conclude that the actual change is different from zero.

Table 1. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Seasonally Adjusted Annual Rate
(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Dec 2010 ^p	Nov 2010 ^r	Oct 2010 ^r	Sep 2010	Aug 2010	Dec 2009	Percent change Dec 2010 from -	
							Nov 2010	Dec 2009
Total Construction	787,878	807,775	809,492	801,023	791,457	841,827	-2.5	-6.4
Residential	235,699	246,532	245,047	236,205	233,205	251,654	-4.4	-6.3
Nonresidential	552,179	561,244	564,444	564,818	558,252	590,173	-1.6	-6.4
Lodging	9,760	9,906	9,954	10,702	11,384	17,458	-1.5	-44.1
Office	33,117	34,326	35,422	37,642	36,077	44,571	-3.5	-25.7
Commercial	37,680	38,161	39,338	40,133	40,524	46,316	-1.3	-18.6
Health care	39,226	39,934	40,840	41,550	39,329	41,612	-1.8	-5.7
Educational	81,282	84,168	84,850	88,897	89,917	91,457	-3.4	-11.1
Religious	4,947	5,291	5,116	5,300	5,001	5,575	-6.5	-11.3
Public safety	10,418	11,125	11,502	11,326	11,494	13,568	-6.4	-23.2
Amusement and recreation	16,919	17,799	17,645	18,462	17,746	16,204	-4.9	4.4
Transportation	39,255	38,989	38,443	40,832	38,478	38,935	0.7	0.8
Communication	18,062	17,786	18,322	17,872	18,171	19,910	1.6	-9.3
Power	95,742	93,812	88,972	78,049	77,534	84,760	2.1	13.0
Highway and street	85,067	86,437	88,513	86,963	85,561	79,082	-1.6	7.6
Sewage and waste disposal	25,225	25,765	26,793	26,481	27,064	24,364	-2.1	3.5
Water supply	15,563	16,005	15,982	16,134	16,402	15,520	-2.8	0.3
Conservation and development	6,405	7,728	7,802	6,932	6,846	6,373	-17.1	0.5
Manufacturing	33,512	34,012	34,951	37,545	36,725	44,469	-1.5	-24.6
Total Private Construction¹	486,867	497,975	494,406	483,706	476,082	540,006	-2.2	-9.8
Residential	226,377	236,109	234,424	225,441	222,772	242,961	-4.1	-6.8
Nonresidential	260,491	261,867	259,983	258,265	253,311	297,046	-0.5	-12.3
Lodging	8,850	9,331	9,419	10,120	10,842	17,245	-5.2	-48.7
Office	21,440	21,388	22,554	24,314	23,308	29,359	0.2	-27.0
Commercial	34,750	35,117	35,872	37,167	37,443	42,685	-1.0	-18.6
Health care	29,778	30,119	31,026	31,474	29,733	31,969	-1.1	-6.9
Educational	13,058	13,333	12,787	13,085	13,446	14,658	-2.1	-10.9
Religious	4,910	5,256	5,082	5,251	4,969	5,538	-6.6	-11.3
Amusement and recreation	6,383	6,399	6,423	6,937	6,255	5,928	-0.3	7.7
Transportation	8,913	8,886	9,031	8,371	8,358	8,702	0.3	2.4
Communication	18,022	17,749	17,996	17,851	18,140	19,861	1.5	-9.3
Power	80,102	79,542	74,373	65,306	63,393	75,733	0.7	5.8
Manufacturing	33,016	33,448	34,221	36,873	36,023	43,955	-1.3	-24.9
Total Public Construction²	301,010	309,800	315,085	317,317	315,375	301,820	-2.8	-0.3
Residential	9,322	10,423	10,623	10,765	10,433	8,693	-10.6	7.2
Nonresidential	291,688	299,377	304,462	306,553	304,942	293,127	-2.6	-0.5
Office	11,676	12,939	12,868	13,328	12,769	15,212	-9.8	-23.2
Commercial	2,930	3,044	3,466	2,965	3,081	3,631	-3.7	-19.3
Health care	9,448	9,815	9,815	10,076	9,597	9,643	-3.7	-2.0
Educational	68,225	70,834	72,063	75,811	76,471	76,799	-3.7	-11.2
Public safety	10,279	10,971	11,366	11,173	11,336	13,026	-6.3	-21.1
Amusement and recreation	10,536	11,400	11,222	11,525	11,491	10,276	-7.6	2.5
Transportation	30,342	30,103	29,412	32,461	30,121	30,233	0.8	0.4
Power	15,640	14,270	14,598	12,744	14,141	9,026	9.6	73.3
Highway and street	84,934	86,333	88,414	86,819	85,378	78,999	-1.6	7.5
Sewage and waste disposal	24,733	25,317	26,473	25,908	26,647	23,973	-2.3	3.2
Water supply	15,069	15,432	15,354	15,503	15,834	15,157	-2.4	-0.6
Conservation and development	6,395	7,710	7,787	6,917	6,770	6,341	-17.1	0.9

^pPreliminary ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Table 2. Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States, Not Seasonally Adjusted

(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	Dec 2010 ^P	Nov 2010 ^r	Oct 2010 ^r	Sep 2010	Aug 2010	Dec 2009	Year-to-date		
							Dec 2010	Dec 2009	Percent change
Total Construction	59,980	68,207	73,804	74,890	76,163	64,714	814,181	907,784	-10.3
Residential	16,897	20,137	23,010	21,630	23,308	18,132	251,167	253,577	-1.0
Nonresidential	43,083	48,070	50,794	53,260	52,855	46,583	563,014	654,207	-13.9
Lodging	813	826	830	892	949	1,455	11,449	25,474	-55.1
Office	2,647	2,888	3,030	3,415	3,144	3,518	37,253	52,717	-29.3
Commercial	2,906	3,185	3,458	3,662	3,638	3,623	40,803	55,042	-25.9
Health care	3,201	3,380	3,519	3,649	3,354	3,393	39,856	45,111	-11.6
Educational	5,970	6,745	7,131	8,225	9,178	6,738	88,025	102,907	-14.5
Religious	399	468	457	471	438	450	5,316	6,206	-14.3
Public safety	877	970	961	1,099	977	1,144	11,846	14,099	-16.0
Amusement and recreation	1,329	1,514	1,533	1,700	1,601	1,269	17,047	18,901	-9.8
Transportation	3,092	3,398	3,571	3,795	3,572	3,131	39,618	38,459	3.0
Communication	1,814	1,628	1,550	1,531	1,587	2,019	18,012	19,754	-8.8
Power	8,233	8,359	8,092	6,637	6,747	7,485	83,501	89,405	-6.6
Highway and street	5,200	7,510	9,090	10,186	9,896	4,857	83,450	82,028	1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,954	2,254	2,470	2,463	2,486	1,876	25,604	24,410	4.9
Water supply	1,191	1,369	1,469	1,453	1,491	1,198	15,445	15,561	-0.7
Conservation and development	579	670	563	803	594	572	6,787	5,624	20.7
Manufacturing	2,879	2,908	3,070	3,279	3,202	3,856	39,004	58,513	-33.3
Total Private Construction¹	38,151	42,037	45,148	42,895	44,473	42,627	507,334	592,326	-14.3
Residential	16,146	19,276	22,121	20,588	22,403	17,421	241,403	245,621	-1.7
Nonresidential	22,006	22,761	23,027	22,307	22,070	25,205	265,931	346,705	-23.3
Lodging	738	778	785	843	904	1,437	10,987	25,350	-56.7
Office	1,696	1,809	1,956	2,133	2,024	2,309	24,135	37,904	-36.3
Commercial	2,657	2,918	3,184	3,348	3,368	3,324	37,935	51,286	-26.0
Health care	2,418	2,560	2,727	2,717	2,556	2,581	30,456	35,651	-14.6
Educational	1,004	1,070	1,063	1,126	1,254	1,126	13,638	16,800	-18.8
Religious	396	466	454	467	436	447	5,267	6,190	-14.9
Amusement and recreation	508	523	542	586	528	474	6,287	7,817	-19.6
Transportation	721	771	824	747	746	726	8,460	8,983	-5.8
Communication	1,811	1,625	1,523	1,529	1,585	2,015	17,945	19,713	-9.0
Power	7,118	7,269	6,837	5,441	5,393	6,842	71,092	77,622	-8.4
Manufacturing	2,838	2,861	3,010	3,223	3,144	3,813	38,399	57,976	-33.8
Total Public Construction²	21,829	26,170	28,656	31,995	31,691	22,088	306,847	315,459	-2.7
Residential	751	861	889	1,042	905	710	9,764	7,956	22.7
Nonresidential	21,078	25,309	27,767	30,953	30,785	21,378	297,083	307,502	-3.4
Office	951	1,079	1,074	1,282	1,120	1,209	13,118	14,812	-11.4
Commercial	249	267	274	314	270	300	2,868	3,756	-23.6
Health care	783	820	792	932	799	812	9,401	9,460	-0.6
Educational	4,966	5,675	6,068	7,100	7,925	5,612	74,387	86,107	-13.6
Public safety	867	957	948	1,086	964	1,103	11,604	13,613	-14.8
Amusement and recreation	820	990	991	1,114	1,073	796	10,760	11,084	-2.9
Transportation	2,371	2,627	2,747	3,048	2,826	2,405	31,158	29,476	5.7
Power	1,115	1,089	1,255	1,196	1,355	643	12,409	11,784	5.3
Highway and street	5,191	7,500	9,080	10,172	9,878	4,850	83,313	81,915	1.7
Sewage and waste disposal	1,914	2,214	2,441	2,411	2,449	1,844	25,186	23,922	5.3
Water supply	1,150	1,321	1,400	1,386	1,431	1,168	14,937	15,266	-2.2
Conservation and development	578	669	562	802	588	569	6,760	5,593	20.9

^PPreliminary ^rRevised

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately: public safety, highway and street, sewage and waste disposal, water supply, and conservation and development.

²Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately: lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.

Table 3. Coefficients of Variation and Standard Errors by Type of Construction
(Percent)

Type of Construction	Coefficient of variation		Standard error		
	Monthly estimate	Year-to-date estimate	Year-to-date change	Month-to-month change	Month-to-month change from prev. year
Total Construction	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0
Residential	3.7	2.5	3.6	1.8	3.9
Nonresidential	0.9	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.0
Lodging	4.8	3.1	1.5	3.6	4.3
Office	1.9	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.9
Commercial	3.3	2.1	1.7	1.8	3.6
Health care	1.9	1.5	1.6	1.2	2.3
Educational	2.1	1.3	1.5	1.7	2.1
Religious	5.9	3.9	4.1	2.9	5.8
Public safety	3.1	2.1	1.9	2.3	3.5
Amusement and recreation	3.9	2.6	3.1	4.1	4.9
Transportation	2.4	2.0	2.3	2.1	3.3
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	1.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.8
Highway and street	3.4	1.3	2.2	2.6	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	2.8	1.7	2.3	2.5	4.6
Water supply	3.7	2.1	2.8	2.8	5.1
Conservation and development	2.9	1.4	2.5	2.0	3.6
Manufacturing	2.0	2.0	1.3	1.2	1.2
Total Private Construction	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1
Residential	5.0	1.1	1.3	0.8	1.4
Nonresidential	1.1	0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1
Lodging	4.9	3.2	1.5	3.7	4.3
Office	2.9	1.8	1.6	2.0	2.4
Commercial	3.6	2.2	1.8	2.0	3.8
Health care	2.6	2.0	1.9	1.5	2.9
Educational	3.8	2.7	2.4	2.8	3.8
Religious	6.0	4.0	4.1	2.9	5.9
Amusement and recreation	5.0	3.7	3.8	3.2	5.0
Transportation	9.8	6.0	8.5	5.7	9.6
Communication	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Power	0.4	0.3	0.4	0.2	0.4
Manufacturing	2.1	2.1	1.3	1.1	1.2
Total Public Construction	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.5
Residential	3.7	2.5	3.6	1.8	3.9
Nonresidential	1.2	0.6	0.9	1.1	1.6
Office	2.1	2.0	2.3	1.6	2.6
Commercial	7.1	5.4	4.5	3.8	12.4
Health care	2.3	1.6	2.2	1.8	3.0
Educational	2.3	1.4	1.7	1.8	2.4
Public safety	3.1	2.1	2.0	2.3	3.6
Amusement and recreation	5.4	3.5	4.6	5.7	7.6
Transportation	2.5	2.1	2.4	2.2	3.4
Power	7.0	6.3	6.8	4.9	9.6
Highway and street	3.4	1.3	2.2	2.6	5.0
Sewage and waste disposal	2.9	1.7	2.4	2.6	4.6
Water supply	3.8	2.2	2.9	2.8	5.2
Conservation and development	2.9	1.4	2.5	2.0	3.6

NA Not applicable

Table 4. Annual Value of Construction Put in Place in the United States

(Millions of dollars. Details may not add to totals due to rounding.)

Type of Construction	2010 ^P	2009	Percent change	Coefficient of Variation
Total Construction	814,181	907,784	-10.3	0.5
Residential	251,167	253,577	-1.0	2.5
Nonresidential	563,014	654,207	-13.9	0.5
Lodging	11,449	25,474	-55.1	3.1
Office	37,253	52,717	-29.3	1.3
Commercial	40,803	55,042	-25.9	2.1
Health care	39,856	45,111	-11.6	1.5
Educational	88,025	102,907	-14.5	1.3
Religious	5,316	6,206	-14.3	3.9
Public safety	11,846	14,099	-16.0	2.1
Amusement and recreation	17,047	18,901	-9.8	2.6
Transportation	39,618	38,459	3.0	2.0
Communication	18,012	19,754	-8.8	NA
Power	83,501	89,405	-6.6	0.7
Highway and street	83,450	82,028	1.7	1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	25,604	24,410	4.9	1.7
Water supply	15,445	15,561	-0.7	2.1
Conservation and development	6,787	5,624	20.7	1.4
Manufacturing	39,004	58,513	-33.3	2.0
Total Private Construction¹	507,334	592,326	-14.3	0.7
Residential	241,403	245,621	-1.7	1.1
Nonresidential	265,931	346,705	-23.3	0.7
Lodging	10,987	25,350	-56.7	3.2
Office	24,135	37,904	-36.3	1.8
Commercial	37,935	51,286	-26.0	2.2
Health care	30,456	35,651	-14.6	2.0
Educational	13,638	16,800	-18.8	2.7
Religious	5,267	6,190	-14.9	4.0
Public safety	242	486	-50.2	12.4
Amusement and recreation	6,287	7,817	-19.6	3.7
Transportation	8,460	8,983	-5.8	6.0
Communication	17,945	19,713	-9.0	NA
Power	71,092	77,622	-8.4	0.3
Sewage and waste disposal	418	488	-14.3	9.9
Water supply	508	295	72.2	11.1
Manufacturing	38,399	57,976	-33.8	2.1
Total Public Construction²	306,847	315,459	-2.7	0.6
Residential	9,764	7,956	22.7	2.5
Nonresidential	297,083	307,502	-3.4	0.6
Office	13,118	14,812	-11.4	2.0
Commercial	2,868	3,756	-23.6	5.4
Health care	9,401	9,460	-0.6	1.6
Educational	74,387	86,107	-13.6	1.4
Public safety	11,604	13,613	-14.8	2.1
Amusement and recreation	10,760	11,084	-2.9	3.5
Transportation	31,158	29,476	5.7	2.1
Power	12,409	11,784	5.3	6.3
Highway and street	83,313	81,915	1.7	1.3
Sewage and waste disposal	25,186	23,922	5.3	1.7
Water supply	14,937	15,266	-2.2	2.2
Conservation and development	6,760	5,593	20.9	1.4

NA Not applicable ^PPreliminary

¹Includes the following categories of private construction not shown separately:
highway and street, and conservation and development.

²Includes the following categories of public construction not shown separately:
lodging, religious, communication, and manufacturing.